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Hydrocyanic acid is slightly lighter than air; hence in its use care must be taken to prevent its escape from or undue concentration in the upper part of the space, leaving in the lower part too low a concentration to kill.

Remedies for this condition are: To allow time for the diffusion; to obstruct and scatter the rising column of gas by placing the generator under a low projection, or loosely covering with paper; to blow from an electric fan into or across the mouth of the generator; to mix a quantity of sodium carbonate (low in chlorides) with the cyanide, thus increasing the density of the gas.

As compared with sulphur dioxid, hydrocyanic acid has the advantages that, first, its use requires no fire; second, the gas penetrates rapidly and without damaging any ordinary article of cargo.

As compared with carbon monoxide, hydrocyanic acid kills fleas and other insects and requires for its production much less apparatus and no fire.

PLAGUE-ERADICATIVE WORK.

LOUISIANA—NEW ORLEANS.

The following report of plague-eradication work in New Orleans for the week ended November 28, 1914, has been received from Surg. Corput, of the United States Public Health Service, in temporary charge of the work:

OUTGOING QUARANTINE.			
Vessels fumigated with sulphur.....	24	California.....	7
Vessels fumigated with carbon monoxide....	10	Carolina, North.....	1
Vessels fumigated with hydrocyanic gas....	2	Carolina, South.....	4
Pounds of sulphur used.....	6,406	Colorado.....	15
Coke consumed in carbon-monoxide fumigation (pounds).....	16,900	Florida.....	31
Pounds of potassium cyanide used in hydrocyanic-gas fumigation.....	170	Georgia.....	22
Pounds of sodium carbonate used in hydrocyanic-gas fumigation.....	170	Illinois.....	170
Pounds of sulphuric acid used in hydrocyanic-gas fumigation.....	280	Indiana.....	17
Clean bills of health issued.....	24	Iowa.....	6
Foul bills of health issued.....	10	Kansas.....	1
		Kentucky.....	21
		Louisiana.....	834
		Massachusetts.....	4
		Michigan.....	11
		Minnesota.....	4
		Mississippi.....	310
		Missouri.....	59
		Montana.....	1
		New Mexico.....	1
		New York.....	15
		Ohio.....	42
		Oklahoma.....	2
		Pennsylvania.....	19
		Tennessee.....	126
		Texas.....	172
		Virginia.....	4
		Wisconsin.....	11
		Canada.....	9
OVERLAND FREIGHT INSPECTION.			
Cars inspected, found in good order, permitted to load.....	966		
Cars ordered repaired before loading.....	1,381		
Cars condemned.....	3		
Total cars inspected.....	2,370		
DESTINATION AND NUMBER OF RAILROAD CARS INSPECTED WEEK ENDED NOV. 28.			
Alabama.....	88		
Arkansas.....	5		

FIELD OPERATIONS.			
Rats trapped.....	7,643	Total buildings rat proofed.....	411
Premises fumigated.....	0	Buildings rat proofed to date.....	4,586
Premises disinfected.....	143	Abatements.....	412
Premises inspected.....	8,741	Abatements to date.....	14,963
Poisons placed.....	35,700	LABORATORY OPERATIONS.	
Notices served.....	1,667	Rodents examined.....	7,478
BUILDINGS RAT PROOFED.		Mus norvegicus.....	3,575
By elevation.....	64	Mus rattus.....	85
By marginal concrete walls.....	94	Mus alexandrinus.....	172
By concrete floor and walls.....	174	Mus musculus.....	3,816
By minor repairs.....	79	Unclassified, putrid.....	212
Square yards of concrete laid.....	13,898	Total rodents received at laboratory.....	7,669
		Number of suspicious rats.....	46
		Plague rats confirmed.....	9

Rodent cases.

Case No.	Address.	Captured.	Diagnosis confirmed.	Treatment of premises.
197	3911 Iberville Street. Taken as a result of summary destruction of rat haborage.	Nov. 21	Nov. 22	See case 196.
198				
199				
200	Stuyvesant docks.....	Nov. 24	Nov. 24	Intensive trapping.
201	3911 Iberville Street.....	Nov. 25	Nov. 25	See case 197.
202	Mandeville and Florida Walk (city garbage dump).	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Intensive trapping.
203	826 North Claiborne.....	Nov. 16	Nov. 28	Rat proofing. Intensive trapping.
204	Westwego garbage dump.....	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Intensive trapping.
205	1005 Poeyfarre Street.....	Nov. 28	Nov. 28	Summary destruction of rat haborage. Intensive trapping. Rat proofing initiated.

¹ Chronic plague.

Total number of rodents captured to Nov. 28.....	167,277
Total number of rodents examined to Nov. 28.....	143,907

Rodent cases to Nov. 28, by species:

Mus rattus.....	10
Mus alexandrinus.....	3
Mus musculus.....	1
Mus norvegicus.....	191
Total rodent cases to Nov. 28.....	205

HAWAII.

The following reports of plague-eradivative work in Hawaii have been received from Surg. Trotter, of the United States Public Health Service:

Honolulu.

WEEK ENDED NOV. 14, 1914.

Total rats and mongoose taken.....	488	Average number of traps set daily.....	1,085
Rats trapped.....	482	Cost per rat destroyed.....cents..	17½
Mongoose trapped.....	6	Last case rat plague Aiea, 9 miles from Honolulu,	
Examined microscopically.....	416	Apr. 12, 1910.	
Showing plague infection.....	0	Last case human plague Honolulu, July 12, 1910.	
Classification of rats trapped:		Last case rat plague Kalopa stable, Paauhau,	
Mus alexandrinus.....	226	Hawaii, Aug. 29, 1914.	
Mus musculus.....	166	Last case human plague Paauhau Landing,	
Mus norvegicus.....	76	Hawaii, Aug. 17, 1914.	
Mus rattus.....	14		

Hilo.**WEEK ENDED Nov. 7, 1914.**

Rats and mongoose taken	2,080	Classification of rats trapped and found dead:	
Rats trapped	2,032	<i>Mus norvegicus</i>	443
Rats found dead	3	<i>Mus alexandrinus</i>	247
Mongoose taken	45	<i>Mus rattus</i>	564
Rats and mongoose examined macroscopically	2,080	<i>Mus musculus</i>	781
Rats and mongoose plague-infected	0	Last case of rat plague, Paaauhau Sugar Co., August 29, 1914.	
		Last case of human plague, Paaauhau Sugar Co., August 16, 1914.	